29th October 1935]

A.—(*a*) Yes; the security was demanded in respect of an article published on 23rd June 1935 commenting on the relief measures at Quetta. As the publisher offered an unqualified apology the notice demanding the security has since been withdrawn.

(*b*) A translation of the article is appended. [a]

(*c*) Clause (*d*) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, as amended by section 16 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932; the article tends to bring the Government into hatred and contempt.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I ask whether bona fide criticism of the conduct of the Government is what is meant by bringing the Government into hatred and contempt? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I cannot give legal opinion sitting here."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I ask whether there was anything beyond bona fide criticism in the article supposed to have given offence? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" If it was merely bona fide criticism security would not have been demanded."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Is it the idea that there should be no criticism on the action of the Government? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" No sensible Government would be of that opinion."

Demand of securities from newspapers and presses for publication of articles concerning the Quetta Earthquake Relief.

* 226 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the working of the Press Act in this Presidency since the date of the Quetta Earthquake, the number of presses, newspapers and periodicals which have been called upon to furnish security for articles concerning the Quetta Earthquake and its relief and also the amount so demanded?

A.—A statement [b] is attached.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know if there is any other paper which dealt with Quetta, but did not merit the order of the Government in the matter of security? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" The Hon. Member may make the question a little plainer."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 104–105 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix II on page 105 infra.

[29th October 1935

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"The Government have given a list of papers from which security has been demanded. I am asking whether there is any other press or paper which wrote about Quetta and went scotfree?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I have not got a catalogue of all the papers in which publications about Quetta appeared."

Government Press

Reduction of charges for the publication of insolvency notices in the Fort St. George Gazette *and the District Gazettes.*

* 227 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for reducing the charges for the publication of insolvency notices in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes, and if so, what it is?

A.—No.

11-30 a.m. Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, why in the case of insolvency notifications that are published, the style adopted by the Madras High Court in the form of a consolidated list in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, is not adopted by the mufassal courts so as to reduce the cost of publication?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Possibly that is a question which will have to be addressed to my Hon. Colleague the Law Member."

Labour

Measures, if any, to relieve unemployment.

* 228 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 681, dated 22nd February 1935, whether any final decision has been reached by the Government in regard to the undertaking of schemes for the absorption of the unemployed?

A.—In view of the present economic depression and consequent unemployment among the rural population, the Government have sanctioned a scheme involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs for an accelerated programme of improvements to minor works of irrigation on a three-year plan. The programme has been primarily directed to strengthening bunds and, where necessary, other parts of irrigation works, and the works selected have been spread out as far as possible over the various districts due regard being had to the availability of labour, the possible working season, and to the fact that the necessity is less in certain well-favoured tracts. The programme is in course of execution.